

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

McCracken County

Kentucky · Paducah · FIPS 21145 · Population 67,573 ·
Crosodo Index #2745*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
KRS §217.137	Okay	60000	MEDIUM	2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

KENTUCKY: MCCRACKEN COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2745* · FIPS 21145 · Paducah

McCracken County

Population 67,573 · State baseline: KRS §217.137 · **MEDIUM**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Annual sales cap \$60,000. No food handler cert required. Registration required. Inspection upon complaint only. Direct-to-consumer sales only; no wholesale. Non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, granola, dried goods. No acidified foods, pickles, nut butters, fermented foods.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state law

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Varies (No county govt URL provided. McCracken County includes Paducah, a regional center. Unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Paducah has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Annual sales cap \$60,000. No food handler cert required. Registration required. Inspection upon complaint only. Direct-to-consumer sales only; no wholesale. Non-TCS baked goods, candies, jams/jellies, granola, dried goods. No acidified foods, pickles, nut butters, fermented foods.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state law
WATER SUPPLY	Standard residential water supply
HANDWASHING	Good sanitation practices implied
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — Consumer complaint or foodborne illness investigation
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies — No county govt URL provided. McCracken County includes Paducah, a regional center. Unincorporated areas follow county zoning. City of Paducah has its own zoning and business licensing. No county-specific cottage food overlay identified.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Direct-to-consumer only; no wholesale; no out-of-state internet sales
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	Not specified

Relevant county code

Not identified

RESEARCH NOTES

Kentucky Okay-tier state with \$60,000 cap. McCracken County/Paducah is a regional hub in western Kentucky near TN/IL borders. No county-specific sources available. Pattern county.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/cottage-foods.aspx>

Questions? Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss your county's specific zoning rules at <https://crosodo.com/nb/kentucky/mccracken-county-discuss>

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	McCracken County	Ballard County	Carlisle County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Yes	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state law	No specific pet restriction in state statute, but good manufacturing practices expected.	No specific pet restriction in state statute, but good manufacturing practices expected.
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Yes	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Yes	Yes
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Direct-to-consumer only; no wholesale; no out-of-state internet sales	Direct sales only. Sales at farmers markets, farm stands, events, and home pickup permitted. No wholesale, retail stores, or internet-based...	Direct sales only. Sales at farmers markets, farm stands, events, and home pickup permitted. No wholesale, retail stores, or internet-based...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Varies	No	No
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Varies	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Annual sales cap \$60,000. No food handler cert required. Registration required. Inspection upon complaint only. Direct-to-consumer sales on...	Kentucky home-based processor law (KRS §217.136) allows direct-to-consumer sales of non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. Registration with CH...	Kentucky home-based processor law (KRS §217.136) allows direct-to-consumer sales of non-TCS foods from a home kitchen. Registration with CH...
FOOD STORAGE	Appropriate storage for non-TCS products	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No more than three refrigerators for storage.	Non-TCS shelf-stable foods only. No more than three refrigerators for storage.
POPULATION	67,573	7,851	4,760

State context — Kentucky cottage food law

McCracken County's rules sit on top of Kentucky's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE KRS §217.137	ANNUAL SALES CAP 60000
REGISTRATION REQUIRED Yes	FOOD HANDLER CERT No
KITCHEN INSPECTION Upon-complaint	DIRECT SALES ONLY Yes
INDIRECT SALES No — Sales limited to direct-to-consumer only within Kentucky — from home (pickup or delivery), markets, roadside stands, community events, and online; shipping outside Kentucky is prohibited, and sales to restaurants or retail stores for resale are not allowed.	

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the [Kentucky cottage food law report](#).

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/statutes/statute.aspx?id=44478>

State dept cottage food page: <https://www.chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dph/dphps/fsb/Pages/cottage-foods.aspx>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/kentucky/>

Questions?

Join the Crosodo Forum to discuss McCracken County's specific zoning rules, permits, and what other home bakers are seeing locally.

<https://crosodo.com/nb/kentucky/mccracken-county-discuss>
